

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 211364

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MT

SUBJECT: MALTA MP SCIBERRAS MEETING WITH ASSISTANT

SECRETARY VEST

1. BRIEF MEETING AUGUST 18 BETWEEN SCIBERRAS, ACCOMPANIED BY CHARGE AGIUS, AND VEST FOCUSED ON MALTESE REQUEST THAT US ENCOURAGE EUROPEANS TO BE RESPONSIVE TO MALTA'S NEED FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE. VEST ASSURED SCIBERRAS THAT HE HAS FOLLOWED THE MALTESE-EUROPEAN NEGOTIATIONS CLOSELY AND THAT HE HAS HAD A NUMBER OF CONVERSATIONS WITH HIS EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES ON THE SUBJECT. SCIBERRAS STATED THAT MALTA WAS GRATEFUL FOR US EFFORTS WITH THE EUROPEANS IN THE PAST AND HOPED US WOULD MAKE A FURTHER EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO BE RESPONSIVE. VEST RESPONDED THAT IT WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO DO SO DURING THE MONTH OF AUGUST, DUE TO THE ABSENCE OF MANY EUROPEAN COLLEAGUES ON VACATION. THERE WAS NO TIME FOR FURTHER CONVERSATION AND MATTER WAS LEFT THERE.

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2. AFTER THE MEETING, DEPTOFF WHO ALSO PRESENT ATTEMPTED TO EXPLAIN EXCESS PROPERTY SITUATION TO SCIBERRAS. HE RESPONDED THAT HE WAS VERY AWARE OF THE DIFFICULTIES CREATED BY THE DELAY IN MALTA'S APPLICATION

FOR A 607-A DETERMINATION AND THAT HE PERSONALLY HAD

ACTED TO EXPEDITE THE APPLICATION BEFORE HIS DEPARTURE
FROM MALTA.

3. DEPTOFF STATED THAT DEPARTMENT WAS CONTINUING TO
ENCOURAGE US INVESTORS TO TAKE A TOOK AT MALTA AND THAT
RECENT INQUIRIES FROM SEVERAL US COMPANIES HAD GIVEN
GROUNDS FOR OPTIMISM IN THIS RESPECT. AGIUS MENTIONED
THAT HE TOO HAD RECEIVED SOME INQUIRIES.

4. SCIBERRAS STATED THAT MALTA WAS IMPORTANT TO US
SECURITY INTERESTS AND THAT US SHOULD PLAY A ROLE IN THE
ARRANGEMENTS FOR MALTA'S FUTURE, IF ONLY BY ENCOURAGING
EUROPEANS TO BE RESPONSIVE. DEPTOFF RESPONDED THAT US
SAW THESE ARRANGEMENTS AS A REGIONAL ISSUE FOR WHICH THE
EUROPEANS BORE RESPONSIBILITY. US WOULD, HOWEVER,
CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THE EUROPEANS TO BE RESPONSIVE. VANCE

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